Vol. VI. Numb. 49

THE OBSERVATOR.

...esley does well on a good Subject. Mr. Equivalent *turn'd Fly-catcher.* Roger's Joan *entertains the tacking Priest. The* Country-man's *Discourse at* Farnham-*Market with some Free-holders of the County of* Surry. *A Word of Advice to Electors of Members to serve in Parliament. A Story from* Suffolk. *With Remarks thereon.*

From Saturday, August 16. to Wednesday, August 20. 1707.

...ountry-m. MAster, all Things are hush, we have no News from Abroad, ...t live in Expectation of the best News that ...er came to *England*; we can't well discourse ...f publick Affairs this Time. Your Friend ...esley, he has engag'd a hugy black Church-...iant; and, in my Country Opinion, mana-...s the Fight very well.

Obs. He does so, *Roger:* I like his Argu-...ent the best of any I have read on that Sub-...ct; its clear and plain; and being so, is the ...ore instructive. He had much better keep to ...ch Subjects; he may do some Good that Way, ...uch more than by medling with Govern-...ent, of which he knows nothing at all.

Country-m. Then there's Mr. Equivalent, ...at us'd to find us some Subject; instead of ...olding the *French* King's Back, and giving ...m a Cup of *Equivalents*, to cheer up his droop-...g Spirits, he's turn'd Fly-Catcher, who has ... long been nooshing of Woodcocks; so that ...e must look at Home, and find Discourse ...is Evening among our Selves.

Obs. Any Discourse that may be beneficial ...o the Publick, *Roger:* What must it be?

Country-m. If you please, we will discourse of ...lecting Members to serve in Parliament.

Obs. The Time is not come yet: It will slip ...t of the Peoples Memories.

Country-m. We will rub up their Memories a-...ain, when the Time shall come. —— The ...ackers and High-flyers immitate their Ma-...er, the *French* King, in every Particular; ...ey always get into the Field before us. The ...hildren of Mischief and Contention, are ve-... industrious in the Devil's Service; they ...ve been strengthening their Party, and ma-...ng their Interest ever since the last Election, ...d now boast they shall be too many for us. ... There's our tacking Priest follows my *Joan* ...ntinually when I am gone to Market, with ...peated Sollicitations, that she would get me ...er to the Tackers Side. He comes slily on ...e Backside of the Orchard, where there is a ...erd in the Hedge, thro' which he enters, and ... at the Back-door he comes; young *Jug* ...ls me all their Discourse: She's an honest ...ung Wench, Master, and will be no Tacker, ... warrant her. Master, I'll tell you what, ...have a good Mind to put my Fox *Gin* in ...t Sherd in the Hedge, and catch the Priest ... the Hocks. Why mayn't we lay Traps for ...e tacking Priests? They lay Snares enough ... the common People to entrap them: They ...ercise all their Wiles and Cunning, to mislead ...e People from their true Interest.

Master, you don't know how much this Thing has troubl'd me, to see the Tackers make such Interest already, and the Queen's Friends so backward; it grieves me to the Heart; you can't tell how it vexes me. And I thought to have spoken to you before about it, but I did not care to discompose you, being so very ill.

I was about a Fortnight ago at *Farnham*-Market, to see how the Price of Corn stood; and there I met with a great many of our *Surrey* Free-holders. We began to talk of the next Election, and they were all cock-sure of the better on't. Said they, *We will carry it for Sir* Richard Onslow, *and Sir* William Scawen, *for the County, in Despight of the* Turk *and the* Tacker. *Aye*, quo' I, *you are certainly in the Right in that Point; those two worthy Gentlemen do command the Votes of all good Men; but we have more.* Said one of 'em, *Mr.* Cox *and Mr.* Cholmley *are rivited for the Burrough of* Southwark; *while they stand, all must fall, that oppose 'em; there is not one honest Man in the* Bailywick, *will vote against 'em. And then, 'tis hop'd* Somebody *will not be return'd from* France *by that Time, from selling his Sorrel Nags, and his Packs of Hounds.* Quo' he, Roger, *never fear it, all Things will do well for the Good of the Queen, and of* Great Britain. *And so we drank the Queen's and the Parliaments good Health.*

I protest, Master, their Talk put a little Life into your Country-man; but as I was jogging Home upon *Dobbin*, I was all in the Dumps again, when I consider'd your Letters, how many of 'em complain of Oppressions on the Queen's Friends by Tory Justices, Assessors in the Taxes, and by select Vestries, and many other Ways, where they can get a Majority to oppress them. If I were acquainted with some Members of the Parliament, I would earnestly entreat them to name none as Commissioners in the Land-Tax, or any other Subsidy, but such as are entirely in the Interest of the Government, and that will do Justice both to the Queen and People.

Obs. Roger, I could say a great deal to this Point, but Truth is not convenient to be spoken at all Times; the most proper Time is to be consider'd, when it may suit best with the publick Interest, and do most Good.

If God gives us Life, we shall have Occasion to speak much to this Point; but at present I shall give you and the common People one Word of Advice: 'Tis to you, and for your Sakes, that I write, and if God makes me an Instrument of opening your Eyes, to behold the Queen's and your own Interest, I have accomplish'd my real Design, and expect no other

Reward

Reward in this Life: Doing Good, is a Reward in it self.

1. Never promise your Vote to any one. He that binds himself by Promises, surrenders his Liberty; ties his own Tongue, and lays a Restraint upon his own Reason; something may intervene, that may make your Promise very ridiculous and repugnant to your own Reason: The good Man you promise to, may be a bad Man before the Election: Corruption is too common, and yet for this Man you must vote, because you have pre-engag'd your self.

2. Resolve on this Point, and promise, that you will never vote for any one, but such a one as is in the Queen's Interest, and that of your Country. On this resolve, and do, and you can never do amiss. And be not discouraging'd at your Abuses, for the Sake of your Votes; this Queen and this Government we must stand by, or we lose all; and Time may come, when the Queen's Friends shall meet with better Encouragement.

Country-m. Master, I was just now talking of the Discouragements the Queen's Friends have met with, and how industrious the Tackers are in oppressing them, when ever it is in their Power; this calls to mind a Letter I lately read, which was sent you from a Town in *Suffolk*.

A Woman that lives in that Town, a Widow, that is a foreign Merchant, and not free of the Corporation, deals in Coals and Corn, and other Merchandizes; about two Years since, the tacking Party seiz'd her Coals, because she was a Foreigner, and laid them up; but this Woman coming of a fighting Generation, her two Grand-fathers being both Admirals of this Nation, and one of 'em lost his Life for his Country, she could not put up these Abuses, but sues them at Law, and recover'd considerable Damages and Cost.

The Tackers would not quit their Enterprize for the first Baulk, but were resolv'd to follow her according to the Malice inherent in that Party; and so in a little time afterwards, when the poor Labourers were at work in her Granaries, they sent for 'em, and as many as would not promise to work for her any more, they sent to the Goal of the same Town, but were bayl'd out.

The Widow, to do them Justice, su'd the Tackers, and recover'd Cost and Damages for the poor Men. At which they were enrag'd, resolv'd to be reveng'd of the Widow, and so seiz'd her Corn, for a pretended Duty due to the Town, when they ship it off for *Holland*; but she knowing Justice to be on her Side, and that divine Justice has a special and particular Regard to the Widow and Fatherless, she try'd the Cause the last Assizes at *Bury*, and recover'd great Cost and Damages.

As soon as the Cause was decided, the Gentlemen on the Bench gave her their hearty Thanks; many of the Aldermen and Gentlemen of *Bury*, wainted on her at Tavern, and return'd her Thanks for her good Service to the Publick; and when she came Home, the Poor, with other Inhabitants of the Town, (not Tackers) with Flags and Torches, Huzza's and loud Acclamations, welcom'd her Home to her House.

Now, the Tackers boast, that they will ruin her; for they say this was a Riot, and they will prosecute her upon it. So you are desir'd in the Letter to give your Opinion, whether this was a Riot, or not?

Obs. I protest, *Roger*, this Woman is a meer *Virago*, a Flail for the Tackers. I have often observ'd, that the Women, when they are spirited to the publick Service, have more Courage and Application, than the Men; And many, who have been thus oppress'd, might have had like Relief, had they su'd for it in like Manner. None but those who are descended from the Family of *Issachar*, will couch beneath, or groan under their Burden, when they may with so little Difficulty ease themselves.

But I am asham'd, *Roger*, to read in this Letter, how much this Widow has been tax'd above some of the Commissioners, that have Thousands *per Annum*. I find your Hint on that Head is very proper.

As to the Tackers pretending to make this a Riot, they'll find they'll come off as formerly, paying Cost. Three Persons in Number make a Riot, but they must be assembl'd in a riotous, tumultuous Manner, or 'tis no Riot: Nor can an hundred or a thousand People assembl'd together, make a Riot, unless they do something *contra Pacem Reginæ & Regni*, against the Queen's and the Kingdom's Peace.

But there was nothing of this in the Widow's Case; these were her Friends, that came to welcome her Home. This was an Act of Love and Friendship, which was ever esteem'd commendable, and has immemorially been the Custom and Usage of the good People of *Great Britain*; and I am glad that so deserving a Gentlewoman met with such good Encouragement; which indeed was her Due.

Country-m. But, Master, won't they say, that this was done *in Terrorem Populorum Tackorum*, in Terror and Affrightment to the Tackers? I don't know what a Suggestion of that Nature may do.

Obs. Just nothing at all, *Roger*. Our old Books, when they speak of Riots, Routs, and unlawful Assemblies, they say it was done to the Terror of the *good* People of *England*, but no where to the Terror of the *bad* People of *England*; then not certainly to the Terror of the *worst* People of *England*, the *Tackers*. *Roger*, the Gentlewoman need not fear a Prosecution for a Riot, the Tackers bring none but railing Accusations, and no honest Jurors will find their Bills otherwise than malicious and scandalous.

Country-m. Master, 'tis too late to call another Cause, and so we'll depart, with a good Health to this brave honest Widow; God bless her.

Obs. Roger, I'll pledge thee with all my Spirit.

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LONDON, Printed for the Author, JOHN TUTCHIN.